(b) whether the concerned States were consulted before setting up the above Tribunal; and

(c) if so, what were the views of each concerned State regarding above Tribunal ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Efforts were made by the Centre to arrive at an understanding or a negotiated settlement between all the basin States. Government of Tamil Nadu in July, 1986 under Section 3 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 moved the Centre for constituting the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal under Section 4 of the Act. In the application before the Supreme Court for setting up of a Tribunal moved by the Farmers' Association of Tamil Nadu, the Supreme Court, after reviewing the progress of the case and after hearing the Basin States, concluded that the Centre should fulfil its statutory obligation and directed the Government of India to set up the Tribunal, as required under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act. All the four basin States have nominated their representatives for the work before the Tribunal and have appeared for the first hearing of the Tribunal held on 28-7-1990.

Earning of Foreign Exchange Equivalent to REP Licence Value by Exporters to Rupee Trade Countries

3515. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had initially made it obligatory for all replenishment licence users to earn additional foreign exchange equivalent to the value of their REP licences;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have withdrawn the said provision from the new Import Export Policy; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) to (c) As a measure of balancing the outgo of free foreign exchange on import of inputs used in manufacture of goods for export to Rupee Payment Area, a provision was introduced in the current Policy to impose additional export obligation to export to General Currency Areas to earn free foreign exchange equivalent to the c.i.f. value of licence issued against an Advance/Blanket Advance Licence. However, considering the fact that discriminatory treatment to RPA exports would not be in the overall interest of the country, the position has been reviewed and it has been decided that this additional export obligation would be imposed by the CCI&E only in cases where it is necessary in the larger public interest.

Smuggling of Ball Bearing into India

3516. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an alarming rise in the smuggling of ball bearings into this country from Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangladesh and Nepal;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government have taken to check such activities ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (c) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not possible to say whether there is an alarming rise in the smuggling of ball bearings into the country from Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangladesh and Nepal. However, available reports indicate that ball bearings continue to be sensitive to smuggling mainly because of non-availability of certain varieties of ball bearings in the Indian market and high domestic price. The Enforcement agencies of the Customs remain alert against such smuggling.

Deep-Sea fishing industry

3517. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 458